GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:355
ANSWERED ON:17.04.2002
TELEDENSITY IN URBAN AND RURAL AREAS
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of teledensity per hundred people in urban and rural areas separately;

(b) whether the Government are aware of the wide divergence in teledensity between rural and urban areas;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the steps taken by the Government to bridge this gap?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PR MAHAJAN)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) to (d) OF LOK SABHA STA QUESTION NO. 355 FOR 17TH APRIL, 2002 REGARDING TELEDENSITY IN URBAN AND RURAL AREAS.

The average tele-density for 100 people in urban and rural areas as per present estimates is 12.95% and 1.09%, respectively. The tele-density in urban areas is generally higher due to the concentrated nature of demand and higher levels of business and commercial activities in these areas.

A number of policy measures have been taken during the past few years to expand the telecom services in the rural areas. The New Telecom Policy-99 stipulates several specific objectives and time-bound targets of tele-density and rural telephony. These are, inter-alia, increasing the rural tele-density from the current level to 4 % by the year 2010 and to achieve telecom coverage of all the villages in the country and also to provide reliable media to all the telephone exchanges by 2002.